

In the Specification:

Please insert the following as the first sentence in the specification:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/206,029, filed May 22, 2000.

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 7-15, of the specification with the following paragraph:

If it is determined at step 438 that the user has in fact consented to voting online, the method proceeds to step 440, where access to a secure URL for online voting is granted. At this site, in step 442, the user may access voting documentation and may be able to place their vote for or against the merger issue that is to be decided. Note that access to the secure URLs for both the online voting and the information retrieval may be provided simultaneously in a single web page. Thus, if the user has consented to both receipt of the information online and voting online, both URLs may be made available on the particular web page, whereas if the voter has only consented to one or the other of these options, only the appropriate URL will be presented to the user.